Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule Study

Dennis Duke
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District

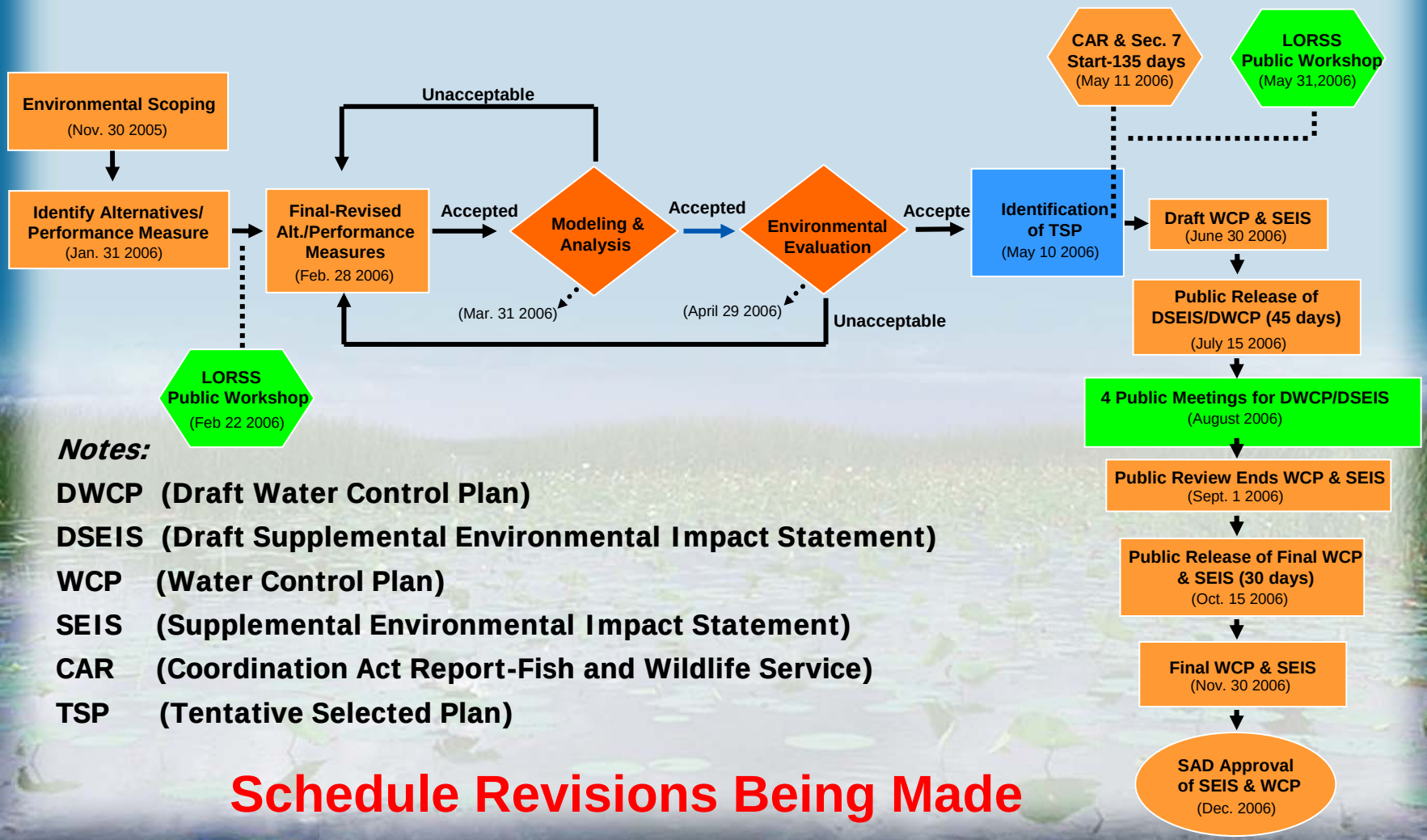
Study Goals & Objectives

- Implement a new Lake Regulation Schedule supported by a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement by January 2007.

The objectives of the new regulation schedule are:

- Ensure public health and safety.
- Manage Lake Okeechobee at optimal lake levels to allow recovery of the Lake's environment and natural resources.
- Reduce high regulatory releases to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries so that the health of the estuaries are not compromised.
- Continue to provide flood control, water supply, navigation and recreation water resource needs.

Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule Study (LORSS) Process



Notes:

DWCP (Draft Water Control Plan)

DSEIS (Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement)

WCP (Water Control Plan)

SEIS (Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement)

CAR (Coordination Act Report-Fish and Wildlife Service)

TSP (Tentative Selected Plan)

Schedule Revisions Being Made

Study Assumptions

- Existing condition: 2005
- Development of Operational Rules Will Look at Entire Period of Record (1913 to current)
- Temporary Forward Pumps
- New schedule's anticipated period of use: 2007 to 2010
- Corps will initiate new Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule Study & EIS in 2007, to capture Acceler8 other CERP Band 1 projects and permanent forward pumps, scheduled for implementation in 2010

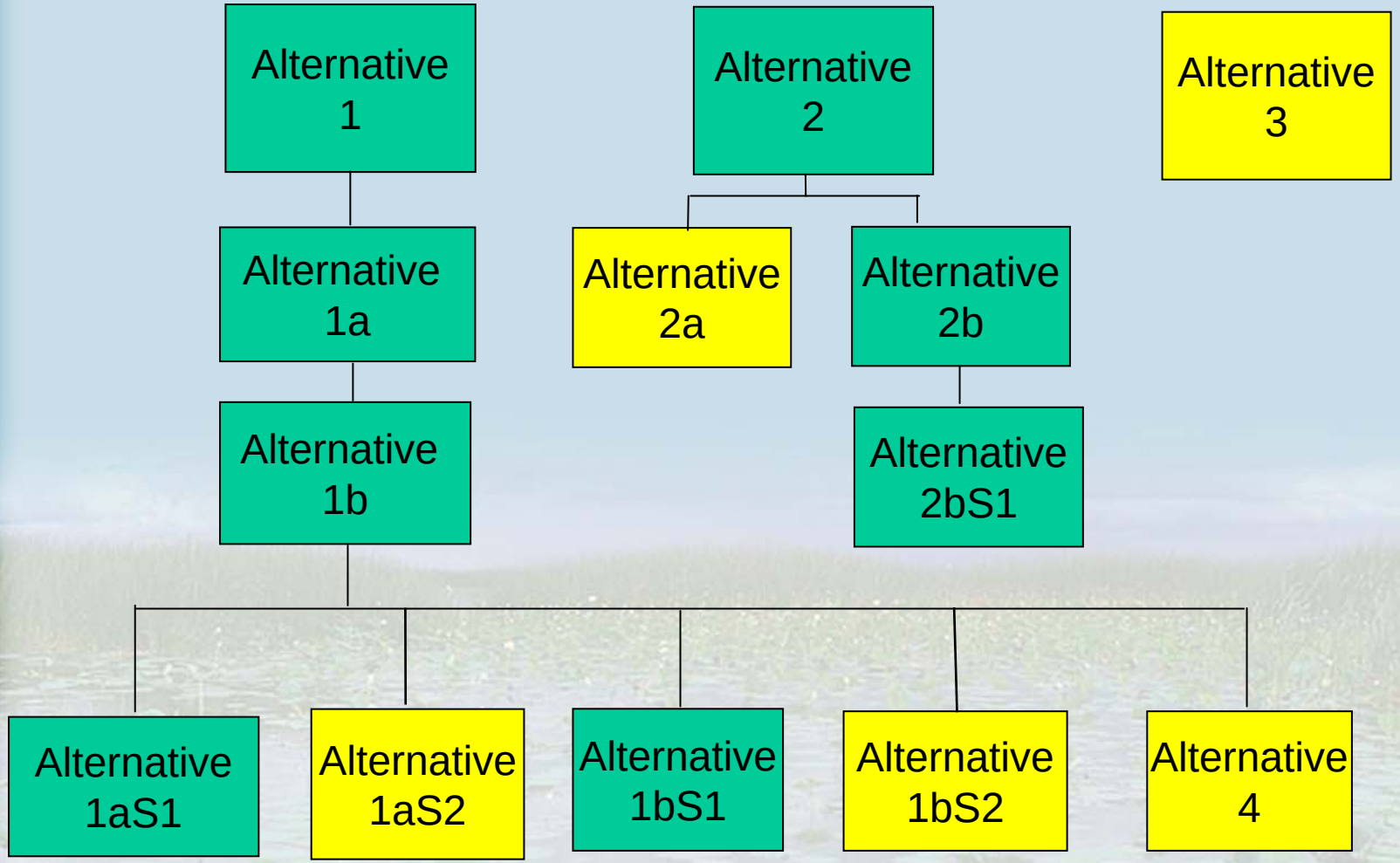
Study Constraints

- Model Period of Record (1965 – 2000) 36 Years.
- Existing Systems Conveyance Capacity.
- Stormwater Treatment Areas (STA) Water Quality Treatment Capacity (63,000 af / avg. annual)
- Existing Regulation Schedules for WCA and Kissimmee River Chain of Lakes.
- Herbert Hoover Dike Integrity (17.25 criteria for max. discharge)

Preliminary Performance Measure

- CERP-accepted performance measure targets including:
  - Caloosahatchee Estuary
  - St. Lucie Estuary
  - Lake Okeechobee
  - Water supply
  - Flood Control (public health & safety)
  - Navigation
  - Greater Everglades

Alternatives Analyzed Final Array



Modeling Revisions

Based on Col. Carpenter's recommendations, the LORSS team will make the following model revisions:

- All alternatives will include the 17.25 criteria for maximum discharge.
- All alternatives will provide environmental base flow to the Caloosahatchee Estuary.
- Consider lowering Lake O outlet canal's operational elevations.

Milestone Schedule

• NEPA Scoping & Comment Period	30 Nov 05
• Preliminary Alt. & PM Identified	31 Jan 06
• Preliminary modeling & Analysis (start)	1 Feb 06
• Final Array of Alt. & PM Identified	28 Feb 06
• Final Modeling & Analysis	31 Mar 06
• Final Environmental Evaluation	29 April 06
• Selection of TSP	10 May 06
• Formal FWS Coordination (start)	10 May 06
• Draft WCP & SEIS (Public Release)	15 July 06
• Final WCP & SEIS	30 Nov. 06
• SAD Approval of WCP & ROD	30 Dec. 06
• Implementation	Jan. 07

Public Coordination

- Next Workshop: May 31, 2006 in Clewiston (Postponed). Will be reschedule.
- 45 Day Public comment period for Draft SEIS in July 2006.
- Four Regional Public Meetings in August 2006.